

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SERVICE HONORS FALLEN DEPUTIES

PCSO

By TRACEY HACKETT

COOKEVILLE — Respect, honor and remembrance. EOW “End of watch”

That was the purpose of a service at the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department yesterday that unveiled a memorial for fallen deputies.



It coincided with many other such memorial services that are being held across the nation and in Washington D.C. this week commemorating National Police Week.

(Deputy David Medley and Sgt. Eric Hall unveil the sheriff’s office memorial honoring fallen deputies).

“Since the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office was founded in 1872, there have been four deputies who have died while fulfilling their commitment to serve and protect the citizens of our

county. We hope there will never be another, but at least now we have a fitting place to honor those who have given all,” said Sheriff Eddie Farris.

In addition to descendants representing all four families of those fallen deputies, numerous



law enforcement and emergency response workers from across the county attended yesterday’s event.

The service inaugurated the department’s new memorial, located on the northeast corner of the sheriff’s office property near the entrance to the lower level parking lot.

“The installation of this new memorial stone marks the first time the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office has had an official memorial site for its fallen deputies,” Sheriff Farris said.

Yesterday’s ceremony included an honor guard flag presentation, motorcade, special music sound track and



recognition and remarks by the sheriff and other officials.

Of the four Putnam County deputies over the years who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, the first recorded incident happened on Aug. 9, 1899, when **Deputy J.J. “Jack” Lee** took a 150-foot fall while searching for a suspect.



Jim Lansford was one of several of Lee’s descendants who attended yesterday’s service, and he said the fatal accident happened after dark in an area that had been logged.

“He got off of his horse to try to get a bearing on his location, and fell off of a cliff or into a hole,” he said.

Descendants said a picture of their ancestor hangs in a dining room of the Cookeville Cracker Barrel restaurant.

After Lee’s death, two other deputies, in two different situations, were killed by gunfire.

On April 22, 1930, **Deputy Orville A. “Amos” Moss** died after being shot while he was attempting to halt a moving vehicle.



Just over four years later, on Sept. 23, 1934, **Deputy Milton Otis Loftis** was shot and killed at a home where he was attempting to serve a warrant. It happened when someone inside the home fired a gun through the closed door, authorities said.

The last time a Putnam County deputy died in the line of duty happened on Sept. 4, 1942,

when **Deputy John Morgan Bilbrey** was struck by a vehicle that lost control and crashed through the building then being used as the jail.

In yesterday’s service, the sheriff expressed his desire and intention to have those deputies’ names included on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

It honors 20,789 U.S. law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty throughout history, and it is the only national memorial that continues to accrue names of fallen honorees.



National Police Week got its beginning in 1962, when President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and a joint resolution of Congress recognized the week as National Police Week.

Now, it is observed annually on the calendar week in which May 15 falls to pay special recognition to law enforcement officers who've lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.



Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 17 May 2016

*Read more about Milton Otis Loftis, Orville Amos Moss, John Morgan Bilbrey, Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>



PUTNAM SEEKS FAMILIES OF FALLEN DEPUTIES FOR MEMORIAL

Posted Monday, March 28, 2016

By TRACEY HACKETT

PUTNAM COUNTY — The Putnam County Sheriff's Office is planning a memorial service later this year to honor its deputies who've given their lives in the line of service.

And organizers want to extend a special invitation to that service to those deputies' next of kin and family members.

"This memorial has been needed for a long time and I am pleased that we will be able to honor these deputies who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the citizens of Putnam County," said Sheriff Eddie Farris. "We encourage everyone to come and join us as we honor these men and their families on May 16."

Four Putnam County deputies through the years have paid that ultimate sacrifice.

The first recorded incident happened on Aug. 9, 1899, when **Deputy J.J. "Jack" Lee** took a 150-foot fall while searching for a fugitive.

Two deputies in two different situations have been killed by gunfire.

More than 30 years after Deputy Lee's fatal fall, **Deputy Orville A. "Amos" Moss** died after being shot while he was attempting to halt a moving vehicle.

That happened on April 22, 1930.

Only four years later, on Sept. 23, 1934, **Deputy Milton Otis Loftis** was shot and killed at a residence where he was attempting to serve a warrant when someone inside that residence fired a gun through the closed door.

The last time a Putnam County deputy sacrificed his life in the line of duty happened on Sept. 4, 1942, when **Deputy John Morgan Bilbrey** was struck by a vehicle.

"We would like to extend a special invitation to the memorial service for the families of each of these fallen Putnam County deputies," said Sgt. Jamie Greenwood.

Deputy Fred Parker said, "It would mean a lot to the entire department to have each of these families represented here on the day we pay our respects to our fallen brothers."

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on May 16. It will be open to the public.

It will coincide with many other such memorial services that will be held across the nation and in Washington, D.C., during National Police Week.

National Police Week this year is set for May 15-21.

A standing memorial to the four deputies here who've made the ultimate sacrifice is planned for the grounds of the Putnam County Justice Center.

Family members of the fallen deputies or anyone who would like more information about the memorial may call Sgt. Greenwood or Deputy Parker at 931-528-8484, extension 3259.

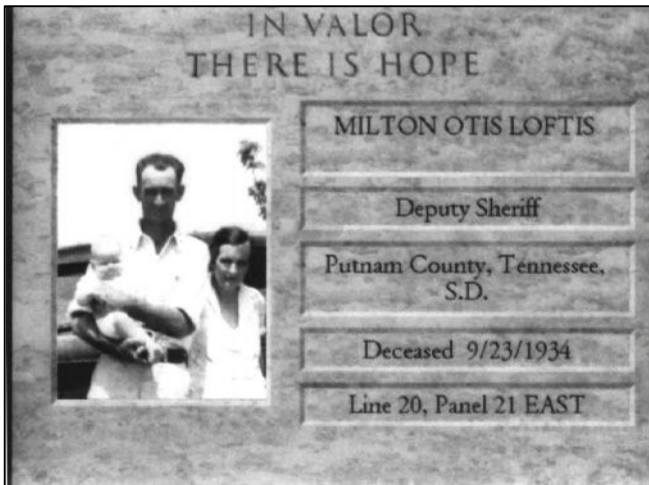
Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 28 March 2016

*Read more about Milton Otis Loftis, Orville Amos Moss, John Morgan Bilbrey, Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>

Judy so glad you got to go to the memorial. Josiah looks so cute and he will love to see that picture and remember when he went to the dedication for his gggrandfather. I am attaching a picture taken at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Mark



Loftis submitted Milton Otis Loftis for this memorial. The Memorial is located on Judiciary Square, Washington, D.C. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was dedicated in 1991 by President George Bush. It honors all of America's federal, state and local law enforcers. Inscribed on the Memorial's blue-gray marble walls are the names of more than 14,000 officers who have been killed in the line of duty, dating back to the first known death in 1794. Each of the pathway entrances are adorned with a powerful statuary of an adult lion protecting its cubs. They symbolize the protective role of our law officers and convey the strength, courage and valor that are the hallmarks of



those who serve the law enforcement profession. Our Grandfather Milton Otis Loftis' name is inscribed on Line 20, Panel 21 East. In Oct of 2001 I got to visit the memorial and do a rubbing of his name. Years earlier my mother Geraldine (Loftis) Denny went to the same place and made a rubbing of her father's. She was almost 4 yrs. old when Milton Otis was killed while on duty as a Deputy Sheriff in Putnam Co. Your dad was 8 yrs. old. Jack was 6 and Audrey Burton was only 4 months

old. I really wished I could of attended this ceremony dedicated to the four officers who

where killed in the line of duty. But I will sure stop by the memorial one of these days to see it and visit my relatives in Tennessee. Glad that Otis Milton Loftis is on two memorials dedicated to all who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.